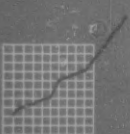


Statistics Weekly

Thursday, 24 September 1992

The week in statistics ...

- ☐ Building material prices — small increase in July 2
- ☐ Prices of manufactured goods rise as cost of materials increase sharply 2
- ☐ Export and import prices rise 4
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Building material prices — small increase in July

Prices of building materials recorded small increases in July 1992. For materials used in house building, prices increased by 0.3 per cent while prices of materials used in other forms of building increased by 0.2 per cent.

The main price movement for house building materials was for ready mixed concrete (up 2.0%). For materials used in other forms of building the main price movements were for circuitry (up 3.8%), mains cable (down 3.1%), copper pipes (up 2.4%) and ready mixed concrete (up 1.5%).

In terms of annual change, the July 1992 prices of materials used in house building were 0.3 per cent higher than in July 1991. The July 1992 prices of materials used in other forms of building were 0.6 per cent lower than in July 1991.

PRICES OF BUILDING MATERIALS, JULY 1992
Percentage change

	House building		Other than house building	
	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Sydney	0.4	0.5	0.0	0.3
Melbourne	0.4	-0.5	0.6	-2.1
Brisbane	0.0	2.0	0.4	1.3
Adelaide	0.3	-2.4	0.0	-2.3
Perth	0.0	1.6	0.3	0.2
Hobart	0.1	2.2	0.3	1.8
Weighted average of six State capitals	0.3	0.3	0.2	-0.6
Darwin	— Not available —		0.5	2.0
Canberra	0.1	2.2	-0.5	-0.3

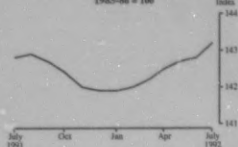
For further information, order the publications Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra (6408.0) and Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities (6407.0), or contact Mark Dickson on (06) 252 6198.

Prices of manufactured goods rise as cost of materials increase sharply

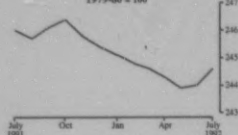
The price index of goods produced by the manufacturing industry rose 0.4 per cent between June and July 1992, 1.6 per cent above its July 1991 level. This contrasted with higher increases in the cost of materials used in manufacturing — up 1.3 per cent in the month and 4.8 per cent in the year.

Continued ...

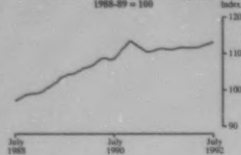
PRICES OF HOUSE BUILDING MATERIALS
1985-86 = 100



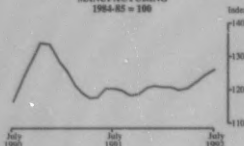
PRICES OF NON-DWELLING BUILDING MATERIALS
1979-80 = 100



PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS
1989-89 = 100



PRICES OF MATERIALS USED IN
MANUFACTURING
1984-85 = 100



Prices of manufactured goods

The July increase in the prices of manufactured goods was due mainly to higher prices for refined petroleum products and basic metal products. Small price increases were recorded for about half of the other items in the index. These increases were partially offset by small price falls for about a quarter of the items in the index.

PRICES OF MANUFACTURED GOODS, JULY 1992
Percentage change

<i>Manufacturing sector</i>	<i>From previous month</i>	<i>From corresponding month of previous year</i>
Petroleum products	2.8	6.6
Food and beverages	0.2	2.5
Transport equipment	0.0	1.9
Clothing and footwear	0.5	1.6
Other industrial machinery	0.4	0.7
Fabricated metal products	0.1	0.4
Chemical products	0.3	0.3
Basic metal products	1.2	-0.9
<i>Total manufacturing</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1.6</i>

Manufacturing materials prices

Prices of home produced materials used in manufacturing rose by 1.1 per cent while those for imported materials rose by 1.6 per cent to produce the 1.3 per cent rise in the manufacturing materials prices index in July.

The increase in prices of home produced materials resulted from higher world prices for crude petroleum and metal ores and concentrates.

The main contributors to the increase in imported materials prices were crude petroleum and condensates (also reflecting world market prices) and components for machinery and equipment (mainly exchange rate movements).

The 4.8 per cent increase in the index for the year to July was the largest annual increase since January 1991.

PRICE OF MATERIALS USED IN MANUFACTURING, JULY 1992
Percentage change

<i>Source of material</i>	<i>From previous month</i>	<i>From corresponding month of previous year</i>
Imported	1.6	4.2
Home produced	1.1	5.2
<i>All manufacturing</i>	<i>1.3</i>	<i>4.8</i>

For further information, order the publications *Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Australia (6412.0)* and *Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Australia (6411.0)*, or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541 or Geoff Brown on (06) 252 2348.

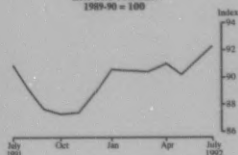
Export and import prices rise

Australia's international trade was conducted at higher average prices in July 1992 compared with the previous month and with July 1991. Export prices rose by 1.2 per cent between June and July 1992, while import prices rose by 2.0 per cent.

A general factor contributing to the increase in both export and import prices was the fall in the value of the Australian dollar against the currencies of our major trading partners.

Significant price increases were recorded for a range of exported metals, in particular gold and lead, reflecting higher world prices. Higher prices for sugar also made a significant contribution. The only significant decrease was for refined petroleum products.

EXPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100



EXPORT PRICES, JULY 1992
Percentage change

Commodity	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Vegetable products	-0.9	18.2
Prepared food stuffs	4.1	7.5
Machinery and appliances	0.5	3.1
Live animals and animal products	1.3	2.7
Motor vehicles, aircraft and vessels	0.5	1.1
Base metals	2.8	0.7
Mineral products	0.4	0.7
Gold, diamonds and coin	4.9	-0.4
Wool and cotton fibres	0.7	-4.6
Products of chemicals and allied industries	0.2	-6.5
All exports	1.2	1.5

IMPORT PRICES
1989-90 = 100



The main contributors to the import price rise during July were road vehicles (mostly a result of exchange rate movements) and fuels, lubricants etc. (reflecting world oil prices).

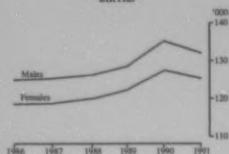
IMPORT PRICES, JULY 1992
Percentage change

Selected items	From previous month	From corresponding month of previous year
Animal and vegetable oils, etc.	1.9	24.8
Machinery and transport equipment	2.4	7.3
Mineral fuels, lubricants and other related materials	5.5	5.1
Crude materials	0.4	1.8
Chemical products	1.0	1.3
Other commodities and transactions	5.3	-0.8
All imports	2.0	5.3

On an annual basis, export prices rose by 1.5 per cent between July 1991 and July 1992, while import prices were up by 5.3 per cent over the same period.

For further information, order the publications *Export Price Index, Australia (6405.0)* and *Import Price Index, Australia (6414.0)*, or contact Peter Cordy on (06) 252 5541 or Geoff Brown on (06) 252 5348.

BIRTHS



Birth rate falls in 1991

The number of births registered in Australia fell by two per cent to 257,247 in 1991. The crude birth rate also declined from 15.4 per 1,000 population in 1990 to 14.9 per 1,000 population in 1991.

The age specific birth rates recorded in 1991 reveal that women in the 25 to 29 years age group remained the peak fertility group in Australia. However, the trend commenced in 1987, of women in the 30 to 34 years age group replacing women in the 20 to 24 years age group as the second most fertile group, continued. Fertility also continued to increase in the 35 to 39 years age group.

AGE-SPECIFIC BIRTH RATES
Number of births per thousand females

	Age group of mother (years)						
	Less than 20	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45 and over
Annual rates							
1989	20.6	78.2	135.4	96.0	32.7	5.1	0.2
1990	22.0	79.0	137.9	101.6	34.7	5.5	0.2
1991	22.1	74.3	131.6	99.8	36.0	5.5	0.2

The median age of mothers at the birth of their child increased in 1991. Mothers are waiting longer to have their first nuptial child, with a median age of 27.8 years being recorded in 1991 compared with 23.2 years in 1971. For all nuptial confinements the median age has increased from 25.7 years in 1971 to 29.3 years in 1991 while the median age of all mothers has risen to 28.5 years in 1991 compared with 25.4 years in 1971. Similarly, the median age of fathers of nuptial confinements has also increased from 28.6 years in 1971 to 31.6 years in 1991.

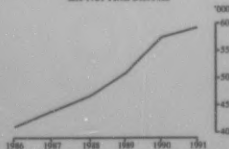
The total national fertility rate (per 1,000 female population aged between 15 and 49 years), fell by three per cent from 1,904 in 1990 to 1,847 in 1991. South Australia recorded the lowest total fertility rate of all States and Territories at 1,715 while the Northern Territory was the highest at 2,257.

The net reproduction rate fell from 0.909 in 1990 to 0.886 in 1991 and is over eleven per cent below the long-term replacement level.

Ex-nuptial births again increased in 1991 for all States and Territories. New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory were below the national percentage of 23 per cent of all births registered with Victoria having the lowest proportion (18.7%).

The proportion of ex-nuptial births where the father is acknowledged, has continued to rise and of the ex-nuptial births registered in 1991 (59,223) only 21 per cent did not provide details about the father. This compares with 23 per cent in 1990 and 39 per cent in 1981. Victoria recorded the highest percentage of acknowledgement at 82 per cent while the Northern Territory recorded the lowest at 66 per cent.

EX-NUPTIAL BIRTHS



Domestic care of the aged

Nearly 15 per cent (2,357,700) of the Australian population who lived in households in 1988 were aged 60 years or more. Of these, 44 per cent (1,037,200) had one or more disabilities.

Over half (1,292,800) of all people in households aged 60 years or more reported a demand for help. Of people aged 60 years or more with a disability, 74 per cent (762,800) reported a demand for help, while of those aged 60 years or more without a disability, 40 per cent (530,000) reported a demand for help.

Of people aged 60 years or more who reported a demand for help in one or more activities, 27 per cent (346,100) further reported that their demand for help was not fully met. The activities for which this help was most frequently demanded included home maintenance, household chores, transport and health care.

Among those who received help with at least one activity:

- ☐ 59 per cent (735,600) received informal help from another member of their household; and
- ☐ 34 per cent (416,300) received help on an informal basis from someone who was not a usual resident of their own household.

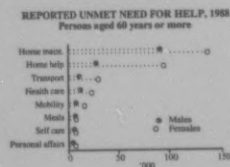
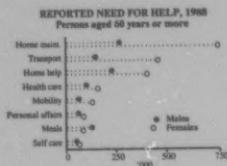
Where the main provider of help was resident in the household it was usually the spouse providing the help. The female spouse provided the most help in all activities except home maintenance and transport.

DISABILITY STATUS OF THOSE LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS, 1988
Persons aged 60 years or more
'000

Age	Disabled			Non-disabled		
	Males	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
60 to 64	152.9	100.5	253.4	202.3	266.6	468.9
65 to 69	132.0	111.5	243.5	152.2	208.4	360.6
70 to 74	102.4	113.5	215.9	104.2	142.6	246.8
75 to 79	68.0	93.6	161.5	66.1	92.4	158.5
80 to 84	42.2	61.4	103.6	23.1	40.8	64.0
85 and over	20.0	39.2	59.2	8.8	12.8	21.6
Total	517.5	519.7	1,037.2	556.7	763.7	1,320.4

The proportion of people with one or more disabilities rose as age increased. For males in the 60 to 64 year age group, 43 per cent (152,900) had at least one disability, rising to 65 per cent (42,200) in the 80 to 84 year age group. For females in the 60 to 64 year age group, 27 per cent (100,500) had one or more disabilities, increasing to 60 per cent (61,400) in the 80 to 84 year age group.

For further information, order the publication *Domestic Care of the Aged, Australia* (4121.0), or contact Heather Crawford on (06) 252 6390.



Motor vehicle usage down

Motor vehicles travelled a total of 150,000 million kilometres in Australia in the twelve months to 30 September 1991, a decline of 2.5 per cent from the corresponding period in 1988.

Passenger vehicles travelled just over 114,000 million kilometres, while freight carrying vehicles travelled nearly 33,000 million kilometres (declines of 2.2% and 2.4% respectively since 1988). However, while economic conditions in 1991 are likely to have been a factor in these results, changes in technical aspects of the Survey of Motor Vehicle Use also had some effect.

Average distance travelled by all vehicles was 14,900 kilometres, a decrease of approximately nine per cent since 1988. Freight carrying vehicles travelled an average of 18,900 kilometres, while passenger vehicles travelled an average of 14,300 kilometres. Motor cycles, averaging 5,700 kilometres in 1991, showed the largest relative decline (12.3%) since 1988.

More than 95 per cent of total distance travelled by all vehicles was within the State of registration. Nearly 54 per cent was driven in a capital city area, and over 25 per cent of total distance travelled was reported as travel to and from work.

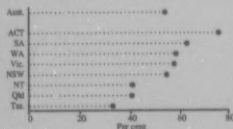
Business usage accounted for nearly 52,000 million kilometres of the total distance travelled, almost 33 per cent of which was while laden. The average distance travelled for business purposes by all motor vehicles was 15,900 kilometres. Articulated trucks averaged 77,200 kilometres, while passenger vehicles used commercially averaged 13,800 kilometres for business purposes.

MOTOR VEHICLE USAGE
Year ended 30 September 1991

	Estimated number of vehicles ('000)	Average kilometres travelled ('000)
Passenger vehicles	8,005	14.3
Motor cycles	283	5.7
Light commercials	1,348	16.9
Rigid trucks	335	18.5
Articulated trucks	52	75.5
Other truck types	13	12.4
Buses	42	33.0
Total	10,078	14.9

Freight carrying vehicles travelled slightly over 17,000 million laden kilometres, a drop of 6.2 per cent from the corresponding period in 1988. Compared with 1988, total tonne-kilometres borne by freight carrying vehicles rose by 4.1 per cent to nearly 89,000 million tonne-kilometres in the twelve months to September 1991. However, there were 6.2 per cent more freight carrying vehicles in operation in 1991, so the average mass-distance carried by these vehicles declined by 3.1 per cent to 78,000 tonne-kilometres.

**PROPORTION OF TOTAL KILOMETRES
TRAVELLED WITHIN CAPITAL CITY AREA**



Total fuel consumption in the year was estimated at nearly 20,100 million litres, a decline of 2.9 per cent from 1988. Passenger vehicles used just over 65 per cent or nearly 13,800 million litres and freight carrying vehicles accounted for 32 per cent or nearly 6,700 million litres.

The total number of vehicles using Australia's roads has increased by 54 per cent since the first triennial survey was conducted in 1976. The number of passenger vehicles rose by 57 per cent in that time, while the number of freight carrying vehicles rose by 51 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Survey of Motor Vehicle Use, Australia* (9202.0), or contact Denise Burton on (06) 252 5544.

Wool clip down again in '91-92

Receipts of taxable wool fell 17.4 per cent in 1991-92 following a 3.5 per cent fall in 1990-91.

In seasonally adjusted and trend terms, the year on year decline is explained by a sharp downturn in receipts from mid 1991 followed by a recovery which has tended to flatten out in recent months.

However, seasonally adjusted receipts in July 1992 were 72,571 tonnes, a rise of 6.3 per cent over the June figure.

Production of both mutton and lamb fell by 2.6 per cent and 4.5 per cent respectively as a consequence of lower slaughtering numbers.

Live sheep exports have increased by 36.5 per cent for the eleven months ending May 1992, compared with the corresponding period in 1991. Increasing demand from Middle East countries has accounted for the majority of the rise. In particular, exports to Kuwait have increased.

Chicken meat production and wholemilk intake by factories both continued to increase in 1991-92. Production of chicken meat has increased annually for a number of years.

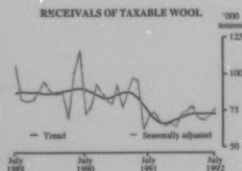
CHICKEN MEAT PRODUCED
Thousand tonnes carcass weight

	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Aust.
1989-90	157	93	60	35	35	380
1990-91	160	101	62	32	33	388
1991-92	172	107	64	37	36	416

Total red meat production fell slightly (0.4%) during 1991-92 with falls in all categories except pigmeat which rose by 4.6 per cent.

For further information, order the publication *Livestock Products, Australia* (7215.0), or contact Marion Long on (06) 252 5337.

RECEIPTS OF TAXABLE WOOL



In brief ...

Wine and brandy sales

In seasonally adjusted terms, total wine sales in July were 26.0 million litres, a decrease of 4.5 per cent on June 1992. Using unadjusted data, total wine sales were 30.4 million litres in July. This is an increase of 26.5 per cent over June 1992, and an increase of 1.4 per cent over July 1991. Australia imported 8.7 million litres of wine in 1991-92. This is a slight decrease (3.3%) from the previous years import of 9.0 million litres.

Wine exports for June were 10.0 million litres (valued at \$30.3 million), the highest monthly export on records. For the year 1991-92, total exports were 78.3 million litres (with a value of \$242.4 million), which represented an increase over 1990-91 of 44.6 per cent. Europe and the CIS imported the majority of Australia's wine exports (64.6%). From this region, Sweden with 17.7 million litres and the United Kingdom with 24.6 million litres received the bulk (83.7%).

Source: Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, July 1992 (8504.0).

Exports of merchandise

Merchandise exports for July 1992 were \$4,839 million, an increase of \$96 million (2%) compared with June 1992 and up \$344 million (8%) on July of the previous year. Australia's major exports for July 1992 and their principal markets were:

- coal (\$620 million): Japan (51%), the Republic of Korea (15%) and Taiwan (7%);
- non-monetary gold (\$286 million): Singapore (50%), Japan (26%) and Hong Kong (13%);
- iron ore concentrates and agglomerates (\$267 million): Japan (44%), China (18%) and the Republic of Korea (16%); and
- meat of bovine animals (\$252 million): Japan (39%), United States of America (34%) and the Republic of Korea (9%).

Source: Foreign Trade, Australia: Merchandise Exports, July 1992 (5432.0).

Tasmanian forest products

The total quantity of logs delivered to sawmills and woodchip mills in the June quarter 1992 was 856,400 cubic metres, down 23 per cent compared with the June quarter 1991 figure of 1.1 million cubic metres. Sawn timber production in the June quarter 1992 was slightly down at 73,100 cubic metres, four per cent less than the June quarter 1991 figure of 76,300 cubic metres.

In the June quarter 1992 the quantity of logs delivered for production of woodchips was 647,700 cubic metres, over 28 per cent less than in the June quarter 1991. Over the same period the quantity of woodchips produced decreased by 24 per cent to 682,700 tonnes. Most of this decline may be attributed to a protracted industrial dispute that occurred during the quarter.

Source: Forest Products, Tasmania, June Quarter 1992 (8203.6).

Inquiries

The ABS supplies a wide range of statistical information:

- ☐ through its bookshops
- ☐ by mail order (including subscription)
- ☐ by facsimile
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All the week's releases: 16 to 22 September

General

Publications Advice, 18 September 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
Publications Advice, 22 September 1992 (1105.0; free over the counter)
Monthly Summary of Statistics, Aust., September 1992 (1304.0; \$20.00)
Statistics Weekly, 17 September 1992 (1318.0; \$4.20)
Economic Indicators, Qld, September 1992 (1307.3; \$6.50)
Tasmanian Statistical Indicators, September 1992 (1303.6; \$9.50)
Northern Territory Business Indicators, September 1992 (1307.7; \$5.00)

Demography

Births, Aust., 1991 (3301.0; \$12.00)

Social statistics

Domestic Care of the Aged, Aust., 1988 (4121.0; \$12.50) — *new issue*

National accounts, finance and foreign trade

Foreign Trade, Aust.: Merchandise Exports, July 1992 (5432.0; \$9.50)
Foreign Trade, Aust.: International Cargo, December Qtr 1991 (5440.0; \$15.00)

Labour statistics and prices

Export Price Index, Aust., July 1992 (6405.0; \$8.00)
Price Index of Materials Used in Building Other Than House Building, Eight Capital Cities, July 1992 (6407.0; \$10.50)
Price Index of Materials Used in House Building, Six State Capital Cities and Canberra, July 1992 (6408.0; \$8.00)
Price Indexes of Materials Used in Manufacturing Industries, Aust., July 1992 (6411.0; \$10.50)
Price Indexes of Articles Produced by Manufacturing Industry, Aust., July 1992 (6412.0; \$10.50)
Import Price Index, Aust., July 1992 (6414.0; \$8.00)

Agriculture

Value of Agricultural Commodities Produced, NSW, 1990-91 (7503.1; \$16.00) — *new issue*
Crops, Pastures and Fruit, Vic., 1990-91 (7330.2; \$27.00)
Livestock Products — Meat, Qld, July 1992 (7204.3; \$5.00)

Manufacturing, Mining, Energy, Service Industries, Building and Construction

Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Building Materials and Fittings, July 1992 (8361.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Plastics, Rubber, Paints, Detergents and Industrial Chemicals, July 1992 (8362.0; \$8.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Metal Products, July 1992 (8367.0; \$6.00)
Manufacturing Production, Aust.: Energy Products, July 1992 (8368.0; \$6.00)
Sales of Australian Wine and Brandy by Winemakers, July 1992 (8504.0; \$10.50)
Dwelling Unit Commencements Reported by Approving Authorities, Qld, May 1992 (8741.3; \$10.50)
Tourist Accommodation, SA, June Qtr 1992 (8635.4; \$20.00)
Forest Products, Tas., June Qtr 1992 (8203.6; \$5.00)

Transport

Motor Vehicle Registrations, Aust., July 1992 (9303.0; \$10.50)

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Suggestions

Any suggestions for improvement to this publication should be addressed to:

Rad Leovic
Editor
Statistics Weekly
(06) 252 6104

Calendar of key releases

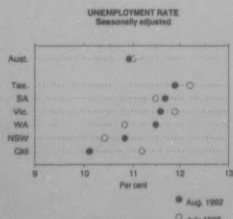
Expected releases over the fortnight to 6 October 1992

September

- 23 Housing Finance for Owner Occupation, Australia, July 1992
(5609.0; \$10.50)
- 25 Registrations of New Motor Vehicles, Australia, August 1992,
Preliminary (9301.0; \$10.50)
- 28 Manufacturing Production, Australia, August 1992, Preliminary
(8301.0; \$10.50)
- 29 Balance of Payments, Australia, August 1992 (5301.0; \$16.00)

The latest ...

Changes to key State indicators — consolidated to
22 September 1992



	NSW	Vic.	Qld	SA	WA	Tas.	NT	ACT	Aust.
— Percentage change from same period previous year —									
New capital expenditure (Mar. qtr 92)*	-33.1	-21.8	-18.4	-24.7	-1.5	5.7	n.a.	n.a.	-22.8
Retail turnover (July 92) (trend estimate)	4.5	3.9	8.7	-2.8	6.9	5.1	n.a.	5.4	4.8
New motor vehicle registrations (July 92)†	1.6	14.2	-12.7	0.9	11.8	1.9	-8.1	-16.9	1.8
Number of dwelling unit approvals (July 92)*	3.2	16.0	16.6	-2.4	33.2	27.1	193.3	65.7	16.3
Value of total building work done (Mar. qtr 92)	-22.0	-15.8	9.3	-23.5	-14.6	26.9	-3.6	7.3	-13.3
Employed persons (Aug. 92)*	-0.4	-1.0	2.8	-0.2	0.5	-0.2	0.8	0.8	0.1
Capital city consumer price index (June qtr 92)	1.0	1.3	1.2	2.0	0.5	1.1	1.7	2.2	1.2
Average weekly earnings (full-time adult ordinary time) (May 92)	7.5	3.3	1.6	6.0	3.7	4.3	6.3	6.3	4.7
Population (June 91)	1.3	1.1	2.2	1.2	2.0	0.9	1.0	2.9	1.5
Room nights in licensed hotels and motels, etc. (Mar. qtr 92)	1.7	4.4	8.0	0.5	5.1	-0.7	14.6	2.4	4.0

* Seasonally adjusted except for NT and ACT. † Seasonally adjusted except for Tas., NT and ACT.

Key national indicators – consolidated to 22 September 1992

		Period	Latest figure available		Percentage change (a) on	
			Original	Seasonally adjusted	Previous period	Corresponding period last year
National production						
Gross domestic product (A) — 1984-85 prices	\$m	June qtr 92	n.a.	65,000	0.6	1.6
Industrial activity						
New capital expenditure — current prices	\$m	June qtr 92	5,749	5,511	0.7	-15.4
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	4,604	4,407	2.0	-12.0
Expected new capital expenditure	"	Six months to Dec. 92	12,157	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Retail turnover — current prices	"	July 92	7,861	7,973	0.6	4.0
— 1984-85 prices	"	June qtr 92	15,253	15,785	1.6	4.9
New motor vehicle registrations	no.	July 92	47,200	43,346	-12.9	1.8
Dwelling unit approvals	"	July 92	14,536	13,849	2.5	16.3
Value of all building approvals	\$m	"	1,893	1,858	8.2	-0.1
Value of total building work done — current prices	"	Mar. qtr 92	5,278.8	5,739.3	-0.1	-13.3
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	3,432.4	3,731.8	0.7	-10.8
Manufacturers' sales — current prices	"	June qtr 92	35,443	35,599	1.1	3.8
— 1984-85 prices	"	"	24,478	24,601	1.2	3.1
Expected manufacturers' sales	"	Six months to Dec. 92	73,674	n.a.	n.a.	2.3
Labour						
Employed persons	'000	Aug. 92	7,679.3	7,731.6	-0.2	0.1
Unemployment rate †	%	"	10.6	10.9	-0.1	1.1
Participation rate †	"	"	62.6	63.2	-0.3	-0.1
Job vacancies	'000	May 92	24.3	24.8	-6.9	-3.4
Average weekly overtime per employee	hours	"	1.09	1.10	-1.5	-1.7
Prices, profits and wages						
Consumer price index 1989-90 = 100.0		June qtr 92	107.3	n.a.	-0.3	1.2
Price index of materials used in manufacturing industries 1984-85 = 100.0		July 92	126.2	n.a.	1.3	4.8
Price index of articles produced by manufacturing industry 1988-89 = 100.0		July 92	113.2	n.a.	0.4	1.6
Company profits before income tax	\$m	June qtr 92	3,133	3,426	-4.6	45.0
Average weekly earnings (Full-time adults; ordinary time)	\$	May 92	587.30	n.a.	-0.3	4.7
Interest rates (b) (monthly average)						
90-day bank bills †	% per annum	June 92	6.40	n.a.	-0.10	-4.10
10-year Treasury bonds †	"	"	8.90	n.a.	-0.20	-2.25
Balance of payments						
Exports of merchandise	\$m	July 92	4,813	4,813	0.9	2.2
Imports of merchandise	"	"	-5,317	4,916	5.8	16.5
Balance on merchandise trade (c)	"	"	-504	-103	n.a.	n.a.
Balance of goods and services (c)	"	"	-857	-320	-190.9	n.a.
Balance on current account (c)	"	"	-1,927	-1,429	-12.7	-56.3
Terms of trade (d) 1984-85 = 100.0		June qtr 92	n.a.	99.0	-1.2	-1.0
Foreign investment						
Net foreign debt	\$m	31 Mar. 92	148,124	n.a.	2.4	7.6
Net foreign liabilities	"	"	199,312	n.a.	3.4	10.9
Exchange rates (monthly average)						
US\$	per \$A	July 92	0.7454	n.a.	-1.4	-3.3
Trade weighted index	May 1970 = 100.0	"	54.7	n.a.	-2.7	-8.8
Other indicators						
Population (resident at end of qtr)	million	Mar. 92	17.5	n.a.	0.4	1.4
Overseas visitor arrivals	'000	June 92	177	218	1.7	5.6

(a) Based on seasonally adjusted figures where available. (b) Source: Reserve Bank of Australia. (c) For percentage changes, a minus sign indicates an increase in the deficit; no sign means a decrease in the deficit or an increase in the surplus. (d) The ratio of the price of goods and services for exports to that for imports.

NOTES: † = change is shown in terms of percentage points. n.a. = not available.

Figures have been taken from a variety of ABS publications. Copies may be obtained from Information Services (see page 10).

Some of the figures shown are preliminary, some final, and some are revisions of previously published figures. Users should check the latest relevant publication or with the ABS Information Services if the status of the statistic is important.

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